

CAA Heartbreaker

Men's basketball loses 57-62 heartbreaker to Old Dominion, prepares for CAA tournament against Georgia State Friday.
See MEN'S BASKETBALL page 8



An epic performance

The theatre department presents "Ramayana La'ar," a multicultural theatrical performance of epic proportions.
See RAMAYANA page 6

The Flat Hat

The Student Newspaper of the College of William and Mary since 1911

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

Faculty diversity shows progress

The number of minorites in faculty increased modestly in the last decade

By KARA STARR
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Despite the College's efforts to increase the number of female and racial minority faculty, both tenured and not, the numbers have only increased marginally over the past nine academic years.

The College of Arts and Sciences is focusing on this issue, making it a top priority when hiring in all departments.

"We urge every department in our authorization letters to advertise widely for women and minority candidates," Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda said. "We advertise where we can in publications that carry job placement ads that women and minority candidates are likely to read, and the Equal Opportunity office has to approve every hire."

Strikwerda's goal is two-fold: to recruit more minority faculty and to have an equal ratio between male and female faculty members.

"We have been able to hire about an even balance between women and men in most recent years, at least in the two years that I have been a dean. We always try to hire the best candidate for the position, but we do take special efforts to make certain that women candidates are being fully considered and encouraged, just as we do with minority candidates," he said.

Strikwerda also pointed out that, in his first two years as dean, five black professors were hired, and that there are several African Americans who are strong candi-

dates this year for open positions.

In addition to these goals, Strikwerda notes that improvement in the administrative sector would be helpful.

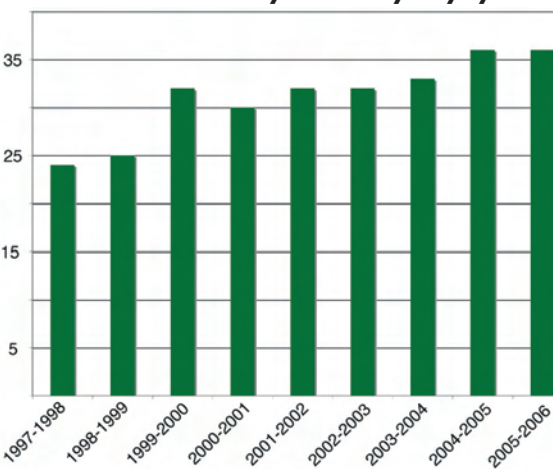
"[College] Provost [Geoffrey] Feiss and I have helped pay the cost for a number of women faculty members who are interested in administrative positions to go to a seminar or workshop on higher education leadership," he said.

The statistics, however, suggest that there is much room for improvement. Minority faculty fare the worst, with significantly lower statistics than female faculty. In the 1997-1998 academic year, 57 faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences were of minority racial status, and 24 of those members were tenured professors. Significant advances were made in the number of faculty members in the years 2001 to 2002 (61 minority faculty members) and 2004 to 2005 (72 minority faculty members), but overall the statistics remained consistent. The number of tenured professors has increased marginally, and is now at 35. The increase in minority faculty was 26.3 percent from 1997 to 2005. In this academic year, 70 professors are of minority status, down two from the previous year.

When considered in the context of the overall hiring rate, these statistics reflect modest improvement. The general faculty increased by 3.2 percent since 1997, and the minority faculty increased by 1.8 percent. Although the actual number of minority faculty is low, minorities are well represented in the new faculty members.

Concerning female faculty, the discrepancy between tenured professors and general professors is massive. In academic year 1997 to 1998, 223 fac-

Tenured minority faculty by year



ulty members were female. Out of this group, 63 were tenured. In that academic year, women represented 31 percent of all faculty and 17.7 percent of all tenured faculty. This academic year shows improvement in both categories, with 295 female faculty members and 115 tenured. This shows improvement, with 38.8 percent of the faculty currently being female. The dominant departments for female faculty are the English department, with 16 tenured professors, the Modern Languages department, with 11 tenured professors, and the Education department, with 13 tenured professors.

One of the challenges facing the College includes the small-town nature of Williamsburg, citing that as a

See DIVERSITY page 4

For athletes, drinking may lead to penalties

By CARL SIEGMUND
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Six members of the women's track and field team and four members of the men's team have been disciplined since August 2005 for violating team rules involving alcohol, according to the head coaches of both programs. Punishments have ranged from probation to expulsion from the team, with some occurring during the fall cross country season.

"A lot of it's hearsay, and there's not proof," an anonymous member of the women's track and field team said of the rules violations.

However, women's track and field Head Coach Kathy Newberry said she was confident in all cases that team rules had been violated. "I found out from different sources, and some through the players themselves," she said. "I had physical proof most of the time, and if not, the athletes themselves came forward."

Team rules for the women's track and field team state that alcohol is not to be consumed within seven days of a competition and within 12 hours before or after a race or workout. Anyone over 21 is limited to two drinks at any given time during the season.

The first violation of team rules results in a team member being placed on probation, a second violation entails suspension from travel and a third violation will lead to a player being kicked off the team.

"I tell my girls to have moderation about drinking. Anything beyond two drinks will inhibit recovery in this sport," Newberry said. "I give a little leeway if you go out and enjoy yourself."

Team members are also asked to self-report violations of the rules. If the offense is not reported within 48 hours, it is considered a second violation.

Because coaches and athletic administrators use College e-mail accounts, they can also obtain Facebook accounts and access the school's network, creating the possibility of online monitoring. While Newberry acknowledged that in some instances of rules violations she has seen photos, she denied looking at Facebook to monitor behavior.

"I know some coaches do that, but I don't look at it. I don't have an account," she said. "I told my girls I don't want a part of that."

Several athletes were skeptical about being monitored online. "Last year, our coaches said they wouldn't go on Facebook. This year Coach Newberry said, 'What do you expect, you guys just put it all out there,'" an anonymous female track and field athlete said.

They also stated that while Newberry and men's track and field coach Alex Gibby do not have Facebook, three of the four track and field assistant coaches do have accounts.

Assistant Coach Ed Moran, who maintains a

See DRINKING page 4

Fatal shot fired near campus

By ANDY ZAHN
FLAT HAT NEWS EDITOR

Police are investigating a fatal shooting that occurred in the parking lot of the Williamsburg Police Department last night, the Daily Press reported.

A 57-year-old woman was found dead after a gunshot was heard at approximately 6:30 p.m. last night. The woman was found with a gunshot wound in her chest. The woman had a .38-caliber revolver, and a note was found next to her. It is not immediately clear if the shooting was a suicide.

Paramedics transported her to the hospital but she was later pronounced dead.

The Williamsburg Police Department is located at 425 Armistead Avenue, about 400 yards from Sorority Court.

More information is expected to be released today.

LET'S DO THE TWIST



SPENCER ATKINSON • THE FLAT HAT

Students took advantage of free food while playing Twister and other games in Lodge 1 Feb. 24.

At colleges with chapels, policies for displaying cross vary

Of 15 Virginia public colleges, five have traditional chapels, only one with permanent religious symbols

MORGAN FIGA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The displaying of crosses and other religious symbols varies at different public institutions. According to a recent article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, out of Virginia's 15 public colleges and universities, only the College, University of Virginia, University of Virginia's College at Wise, Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute have traditional chapels.

U.Va.'s chapel has a removable cross on its altar. It is displayed as

a gift from naval units that were stationed at U.Va. during WWII for training.

"The cross is displayed in a case in the chapel and can be moved to the table at the front of the chapel at the request of someone using it," Jeff Hanna, U.Va.'s senior director of public affairs, said. "It can also be removed altogether, or it can stay in the case. Those are the three options."

James Madison University has an interfaith chapel with religious symbols from Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity and other religions displayed in a stained-glass

window.

Virginia Tech's chapel has no crosses or other religious symbols, but instead has sculptures of God interacting with man. VMI and University of Virginia's College at Wise have no religious symbols in their chapels.

Nationally, many public institutions do not have chapels and thus no specific policy on the displaying of crosses or other religious symbols. University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, University of Michigan and UCLA do not have chapels within the school. According to a spokeswoman at University of California Berkeley, there is no chapel on campus and the university does not regulate the display of religious symbols.



COURTESY PHOTO • CGEP.VIRGINIA.EDU

The University Chapel at U.Va. had a similar policy to the College's original cross policy.

NEWSINSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Corrections

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Weather

Tuesday



High 44°
Low 30°

Wednesday



High 46°
Low 32°

Source: www.weather.com

Thursday



High 44°
Low 32°

Quotes of the Week

“A national, standardized test would almost inevitably be a lowest common denominator that would have little value.”
- Dean Karl Strickwerda, on possible new national tests
See **EDUCATION** page 3

“Ramayana is about securing community”
- Tanglao-Auguas, theatre professor, on the upcoming Ramayana performance
See **‘RAMAYANA’** page 6

News in Brief

Test of online housing lottery system experiences errors

Residence Life assigned time slots to students who had signed up to test drive the new online housing lottery Monday, but errors prevented students from seeing their assigned registration time slots.

Residence Life sent four e-mails to all testers over a two-hour period. The first e-mail announced that there were errors; a second said that they had been corrected, and a third said that IT was still working on correcting errors.

“This is a test instance of myWM and not the real thing, so the smallest thing not being set up correctly can [throw] things off,” a final e-mail said.

— by Maxim Lott

Former College rector and BOV member passes away

Herbert V. Kelly, Sr., ‘41, a former rector of the College and BOV member, died Feb. 19, at the age of 87.

“The College of William and Mary today is immeasurably better for Herb’s leadership during the last 60 years,” President Gene Nichol said.

Kelly received a law degree in 1943, in addition to his undergraduate degree. He was on the BOV for nine years and was rector for two.

He served as president of the local United Way, Boy Scout Council, Sports Club and Newport News Club Rotary. In 1987, he received in the Alumni Medallion and an honorary degree in 1993.

— by Morgan Figa

By the Numbers

45,000

The number of packages handled by Postal Services at the College so far this academic year, according to Associate Director Richard Sears. That amounts to an average of 6.34 packages for each student at the college.

2.3 billion

The number of cell phone users worldwide, according to a report by CTIA The Wireless Association. There are 229 million users in the US, less than 10 percent of the world total.

\$900

The amount that the average college student spends annually on textbooks, according to a study by the Government Accountability Office.

105%

The profit margin of Magellan’s expedition, the first to circumnavigate the globe. Although only 22 out of more than 230 sailors ever made it back and Magellan himself died, the cargo of cloves on the one returning ship covered more than twice the cost of the expedition.

17

The number of wins by the Tribe Women’s basketball team, the second-most in the team’s history according to TribeAthletics.com.

— by Maxim Lott



BEYOND THE BURG

Site offers free, legal music for students

By JESSICA TAUBMAN
THE FLAT HAT

Ruckus Network, a company that boasts a collection of more than 2.5 million digital music files, began offering free and unlimited downloads to anyone with a “edu” e-mail address Jan. 22, 2007. The service can be accessed at www.ruckusnetwork.com.

According to a Feb. 1 article on Podtech.net, major record labels such as Jive Records have authorized Ruckus to offer their music in order to reach college students. The record labels hope this preemptive action will reduce the music piracy that runs rampant on many college campuses.

Ruckus acquires its music collection from record labels and distributors. Each time a track is played, Ruckus pays the record label, making downloading legal according to the Ruckus website. Ruckus supports itself through paid advertisements.

Students are able to download full-length tracks and albums to

their computers. To gain access, students have to register on the website and download the Ruckus Player.

Once registered, students can create and post playlists, see which songs are most popular on their campuses and comment on albums through the Ruckus login page.

The downloaded media, whether visual or audio, is not permanent and cannot be copied onto a CD or MP3 player without a paid membership.

According to the Jan. 31 online edition of the Arkansas Traveler, Ruckus contains a variety of movies, television shows and music videos. The site offers a “Ruckus-To-Go” option for \$20 a semester, and a deal for unlimited movie access, “Video-On-Demand,” for \$15 per semester.

One complaint commonly noted in articles on Ruckus is its incompatibility with iTunes and iPods. This is because Ruckus does not have a contractual agreement with Apple and the existing software does not support the security features that Ruckus requires, according to the official Ruckus Blog.

Ruckus also became the center of an advertising scandal on the social networking site Facebook.com last fall.

According to an Oct. 7, 2006 article in the Washington Post, a Ruckus marketing employee allegedly used the fake persona “Brody Ruckus” to create the group “If this group reaches 100,000 my girlfriend will have a threesome” as a ploy to create the largest group on Facebook.com. After 100,000 students had joined the group, “Brody Ruckus” added a new promise to post pictures of the encounter if 300,000 people joined.

The Washington Post reported that at the group’s peak, before Facebook.com shut the group down, Ruckus had access to the e-mail addresses of the more than 300,000 students who had joined the group. Potentially, the group could have served as a platform for the company to advertise itself to hundreds of thousands of students. Ruckus has declined to comment on the alleged incident.

STREET BEAT

On the controversy surrounding the Sex Workers’ Art Show:



There tends to be a split between students and old people.

Kristen Erickson, junior



In college, people can choose what they want to view. If you have a problem with it, don’t go see it.

Kelly Thompson, freshman



If you’re going to have another sex show on campus, have girls under 25.

Timur Tsutsuk, sophomore



It’s really a non-issue. I don’t see what all of the fuss is about.

Isaac Sarver, freshman

— photos by Zach Claywell, interviews by Virginia Newton

CITY POLICE BEAT

Feb. 15 to Feb. 22

Thursday, Feb. 15 — A man was arrested for cocaine possession on the 2100 block of Richmond Rd. ①

Friday, Feb. 16 — A 50-year-old white male was charged with possession of a stolen vehicle on the 200 block of Page Street. ②

Saturday, Feb. 17 — A 20-year-old female student was charged with underaged possession of alcohol and littering on the 1200 block of Richmond Rd. ③

— A 21-year-old white male was charged with being drunk in public on the 2100 block of Richmond Rd. ①

— A 20-year-old female student was charged with underage possession of alcohol on the 800 block of Richmond Rd. ③

— A 38-year-old black male was charged with his third DUI and refusal to comply on the 3000 block of Richmond Rd. ④

— A 25-year-old white male was

charged with a DUI on the 3000 block of Richmond Rd. ④

— A 25-year-old white male was charged with larceny on the same part of Richmond Rd. ④

— A 19-year-old male student was charged with underage possession of alcohol and littering on the 200 block of Richmond Rd. ⑤

Sunday, Feb. 18 — A 39-year-old white female was charged with defrauding an innkeeper from Feb. 13 through 18 at the Econo Lodge on Richmond Rd. ⑥

— A 21-year-old white female was charged with a DUI at 3:00 a.m. on the 1600 block of Richmond Rd. ⑦

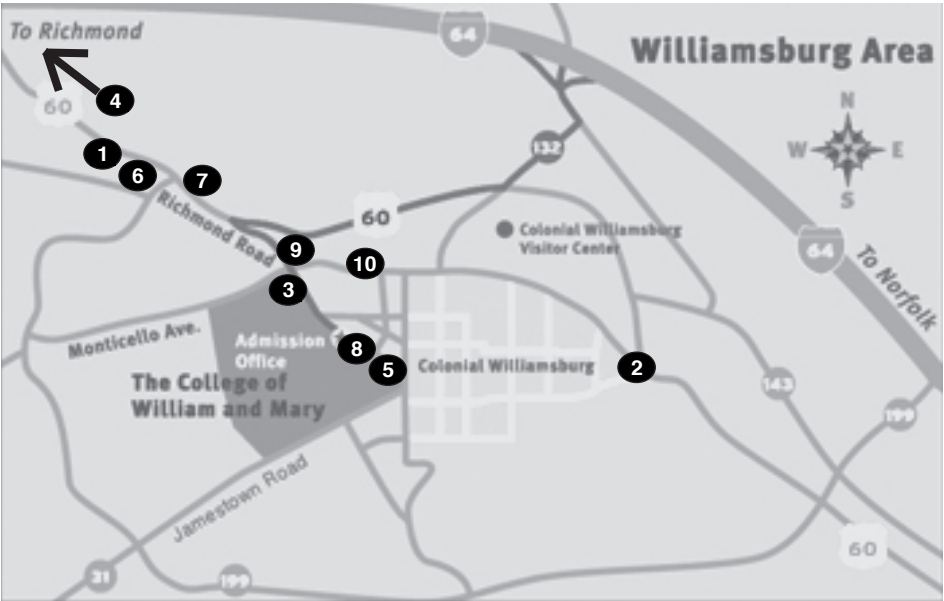
— A 19-year-old white female was charged with a DUI at 4:00 a.m. on the 400 block of Richmond Rd. ⑧

Tuesday, Feb. 20 — A 45-year-old white female was charged with a DUI on the 1400 block of Richmond Rd. ⑨

Wednesday, Feb. 21 — A black male of unknown age was charged with larceny of a bottle of Grey Goose alcohol on Richmond Road. ③

Thursday, Feb. 22 — A 48-year-old black female was charged with a first DUI offense on Bypass Road. ⑩

—compiled by Morgan Figa



Under the

MICROSCOPE

◆ MALE CIRCUMCISION MAY REDUCE CHANCE OF CONTRACTING HIV

By KATE PRENGAMAN
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

The arsenal for fighting one of human health’s biggest challenges became a little bit stronger this month. Recent studies have shown that male circumcision can reduce a man’s chances of contracting the HIV virus from heterosexual intercourse by almost 65 percent. Research from two clinical trials in Africa were published in the Lancet, a British medical journal, this month. The studies, conducted in Kenya and Uganda, compared men who agreed to undergo circumcision with those who decided to forego the procedure.

It is currently estimated that 40 million men, women and children are currently living with HIV/AIDS, according to the UNAIDS website. Almost 5 million more people are added to that list annually, the majority living in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2005, the death toll from the virus measured above 3 million. Massive global efforts to prevent and treat the disease are expensive and complicated.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases sponsored the studies. “[Circumcision] is a one-time, permanent intervention that’s safe when done under the appropriate medical conditions. If we had an AIDS vaccine that was performing as well as this, it would be the talk of the town,” the Institute’s director, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, told the New York Times

The studies were closed early because the researchers saw such a clear correlation in their data analysis that it was deemed unethical to continue keeping the men in the control group uncircumcised when the procedure could protect them from infection.

More than 2,500 young men participated in the study in regions where more than a quarter of the traditionally uncircumcised men are HIV-positive. All of the men in the study received HIV/AIDS educational information, testing and condoms in addition to undergoing the actual operation. Condom use increased almost equally in both groups of participants.

Some critics of the study point to the fact that the sample was in some ways not randomized — men could volunteer for the procedure or refuse it. Critics argue that perhaps the men open to the idea

of circumcision were also the men more actively concerned with HIV prevention in other aspects of their sexual health decisions.

While this is a potentially viable criticism of the study, and one that merits further research, the conclusions drawn from the large sample of men seem to be more than significant.

Several health officials have stressed that circumcision should not be viewed as the perfect solution. Dr. Robert Bailey, a lead investigator in the study, told ScienceDaily that their findings are not a cure-all.

“Circumcision is by no means a natural condom,” Bailey said. “We do know that some circumcised men become infected with HIV.”

Currently, the United States’ global HIV/AIDS focus uses the Bush Administration’s “ABC” plan.

“Abstinence” is the first focus, followed by “Being Faithful” with “Condom distribution” ranking third. This policy has been criticized by many for being out of touch with the reality of the sexual practices and patterns of the societies most at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Increased education for men, as well as accessible options such as professional circumcision by a well-equipped, trained hospital staff, is expected to play a large role in reducing overall transmission rates. A portion of President Bush’s new \$15 billion AIDS initiative could be allocated toward circumcision programs based on the results of this study, according to the New York Times.



COURTESY PHOTO • SYX.HU
The Bush administration encourages condom distribution as a way to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Drinking can get athletes in trouble

DRINKING from page 1

Facebook account and is ‘friends’ with some of the track team members, said he does not use the website anymore. “We’re not looking to chase people down,” he said.

Newberry also said her goal is not to actively seek out perpetrators.

“We’re on a small team, and what you do is going to get back to me. People talk, and it’s easy to find things out,” she said. “I don’t line my girls outside my door and question them.”

While Newberry estimated six of her girls have been in trouble in the past year for violating team policy, she said none of them have been kicked off.

On the men’s team, where two members have been removed and two suspended since August 2005, seniors play a large role in dictating team expectations. At the beginning of the year, team members collaboratively discuss what the rules should be.

“The general rule is no drinking,” senior track and field member Matthew Wolak said. “A drink here or there is allowable as long as it’s done intelligently. Going to parties and hanging out is fine as long as you are taking care of the details like getting enough sleep and not doing anything stupid.”

Everyone on the team is to avoid putting themselves in a bad position, according to Gibby, who treats each violation on a case-by-case basis. Because rules are not written out, this can create confusion about team expectations, especially among younger athletes.

“There’s no strict rules on what’s right and what’s wrong, and no set out system. It’s all based on the discretion of the coach,” an anonymous male close to the team said. “We know consuming alcohol is against team policy; what is not well known are the consequences resulting from that.”

Gibby, though, maintained that every athlete should be aware of the consequences.

“There are examples of people getting in trouble. Kids should know better,” he said. “Without question, kids have a sense of what the punishment would be because there are enough lineages in terms of stories. If they are serious and intelligent, they’ll understand.”

He said that in the rare cases where individuals have been removed from the team there is a documented history of problems. “It’s usually a product of repeated incidents,” he said. “You set up a chain that’s irrefutable.”

Wolak also said that in the case of a first offense, individuals were not usually kicked off the team. Common punishments have included suspensions for part of the season.

In the past year, Gibby estimated that 50 to 75 percent of the cases involved self-reporting, where individuals came to him and told him they violated the rules. In other cases, seniors have reported rules violations to him, in an attempt to hold members of the team accountable for their actions.

Some athletes believe that it is unfair for other team members to speak to Coach Gibby first.

“I wish some of the guys would take charge and speak to me about the rules and tell me that it’s not the thing to do,” a second anonymous male said. “They should be taking charge and taking more of a responsibility than telling coach and letting him suspend people.”

According to the anonymous male, some older players keep a strict lookout. While partying is not prohibited, it is frowned upon.

Men’s track and field senior Matt Keally said he believes the best policy for enforcing the rules is for older members of the team to talk to the individual first. Asked whether or not it was fair to report a rules violation to Gibby first, he said it was only acceptable in severe cases.

“In the stuff I’ve seen, it’s probably not best. I’d at least say something to them first,” Keally said.

He also said that when he first started running on the team his freshman year, alcohol policies were relatively lax, leading to an atmosphere where athletes went out and did whatever they pleased on weekends. He believes the decision to create a social contract with the rules helped the team improve its overall performance.

“In any team environment there has to be discipline, and you have to be subject to something greater than yourself,” Gibby said.

“Someone will be ruling over your life.”

Faculty diversity shows progress

DIVERSITY from page 1

challenge in attracting single, minority faculty to teach and live at the College.

“Williamsburg is not exactly a happening place,” Feiss said to the Times-Dispatch.

The efforts to encourage female and minority equality among faculty at the College are reflective of a national trend. This past weekend, Harvard University announced its first female president, History Professor Drew Gilpin Faust, as the institution’s 28th president in over 350 years.

The progress of the College’s objective will be seen over time.

“A diverse faculty is a major concern for us as a college. Many faculty members are working to help recruit women and minority candidates for our positions. On balance, we’ve done reasonably well, but we’re committed to continuing to work hard on this issue,” Strikwerda said.

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Membership is determined by a competitive process which includes an application, brief interview, and letter of recommendation.

This is a unique opportunity for students to learn more about the College and to serve W&M by sharing our history with visitors to the campus.

Application forms are available in the Information Center in room 100 of the Wren Building (open daily, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm), or by emailing meengi@wm.edu with your request.

Deadline for applications: Friday, March 23, 2007.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Athletes under scrutiny

In today’s issue, a feature story appears on the front page that addresses policy violations and the results of infractions by student athletes at the College. While some readers, particularly non-athletes, may be somewhat alarmed at certain restrictions imposed by coaches and the sanctions that can accompany violation of these rules, the policies are generally sensible and beneficial to all parties concerned.

Many athletes come to the College on partial scholarships because of their athletic abilities. Consequently, they have an extra responsibility to their programs to ensure that their behavior does not result in negative consequences for themselves or their teams. It should certainly be pointed out that these rules and regulations, often regarding drinking and other social scenarios, can be quite difficult for student athletes, most of whom live a life that consists of strenuous practice and workout schedules.

Despite of these rigorous schedules, scholar athletes must still use common sense in their choices. Players know what is expected of them in regard to alcohol consumption and other behaviors, particularly during their respective seasons. Women’s track and field Head Coach Kathy Newberry has stipulated for her team that no player can consume more than two drinks on a single occasion and may not drink within 12 hours of a team obligation. This is by no means an unreasonable request given the understood responsibilities of student athletes and alcohol’s effect on athletic performance.

One of the most interesting sides of this debate centers on the issue of athletes who post pictures and information on Facebook. Some believe that the coaching staff members of various teams track their players’ Facebook accounts to search for inappropriate behavior, an assertion that coaches deny. Whether

or not this is the case, student athletes must realize, just as any student who applies for a job or anything else of significance to his or her future, that privacy cannot be expected on a public forum such as Facebook. The thought of coaches intentionally tracking their players online is quite disturbing, one would not be completely justified in saying their privacy is being invaded, particularly since the main purpose of Facebook is online social interaction, and some athletes are Facebook friends with assistant coaches.

A more accurate critique of the College’s attitude toward its athletes would address the need for clearer explanations of consequences for student athletes found to be in violation of team policy. In the case

of the men’s track and field team, players understand the policy but are unclear as to the potential ramifications if they break the rules. Particularly here at the College, where guidelines, policy and punishments are so well

defined by the honor and judicial councils, specific rules and consequences should be implemented and passed on to student athletes in order to grant the same courtesy.

The College’s graduation rate of 89 percent for student athletes is tied for fifth in the nation among Division I schools — a truly remarkable accomplishment. Moving forward, our athletes must continue to serve the College and perform on the field, but they also must show maturity and, at times, restraint off the field. Likewise, the administration, the athletic department and the coaches must understand that these athletes are also students. Like all students, they deserve the respect and basic right of just and well-defined policies. Improvements and more honest discourse on both sides will lead to healthier, more productive athletic programs that will continue to serve and represent the College.

Moving forward, our athletes must continue to serve the College and perform on the field, but they also must show maturity and, at times, restraint off the field.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and at 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to opinions@flathatnews.com. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets before each issue to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

Who’s next: Iran?

U.S.-Iranian relations cause tension, open possibility for armed conflict

Over the past few months, I have closely followed the administration’s dialogue concerning Iran. More and more, the actions of the current administration model the U.S.’s actions during the months



Teddy Wertheim

before the invasion of Iraq. So what’s next, a war with Iran? U.S.-Iranian relations first grabbed my attention last year with the growing debate over Iran’s nuclear ambitions. The details of Iran’s nuclear program first emerged in 2002, when a group of Iranian exiles accused Tehran of secretly building a vast uranium enrichment plant in Natanz and a heavy water plant in Arak. After U.S. satellite images confirmed these allegations, Iran admitted to the program, which had been kept secret for 18 years. Since this discovery, Iran has continued their nuclear program despite three years of international pressure to cease enrichment. Iran claims that the country has the sovereign right to “civilian” nuclear technology under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Yet the U.S. and other western nations remain fundamentally distrustful of the intentions of the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. may have a point. Iran hid the program for 16 years, and the Iranian leaders have rarely cooperated with international calls for halting its enrichment. Despite sanctions, the Iranian regime remains defiant to any pullback from enrichment.

Paradoxically, the U.S.-led war in Iraq has allowed Iran to emerge as the regional superpower. Subsequently, with the Sunni/Shiite divide and the resurgence of Islamism transcending the region, the Iranian Islamic revolution may serve as the model for Islamic revolutionaries across the region. Simply put, the mere existence of a powerful Iranian regime threatens the internal stability of our regional allies, such as Saudi Arabia. To make matters worse, Iran has publicly threatened to wipe Israel, our closest regional ally, off the map. Consequently, weakening Iranian power seems like the next policy on the administration’s agenda.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran have recently heated up. The Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has explicitly promised harsh retaliation to any military attack against Iran on Iranian soil. Tehran has called for talks with the U.S. but has explicitly stated that such talks would not result in Iran halting enrichment, but a U.S. understanding of the Iranian position. Iran constantly rebukes

international criticism, claiming that the “enemies of Iran” only seek to destabilize the progress of the Islamic republic. More importantly, as Saddam once did, the Iranian president believes that U.S. threats of military action are only a bluff. Ultimately, Ahmadinejad believes that the U.S. is too weak to attack Iran.

In December, the U.S. arrested Iranian diplomats in Baghdad, claiming that these officials were members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard who were providing military assistance to Shiite militants. Increasingly, the administration has directly implicated Iran in Iraq’s spiraling violence. In this week’s news, the Bush administration, along with some military officials, have claimed that Tehran knowingly provides Shiite militants with Iranian-made IFPs, one of the deadliest roadside bombs that have been used to attack Coalition forces. According to BBC news, President Bush has remarked that U.S. forces would “kill any Iranians agents” who attack Coalition forces inside Iraq. The likelihood of mili-

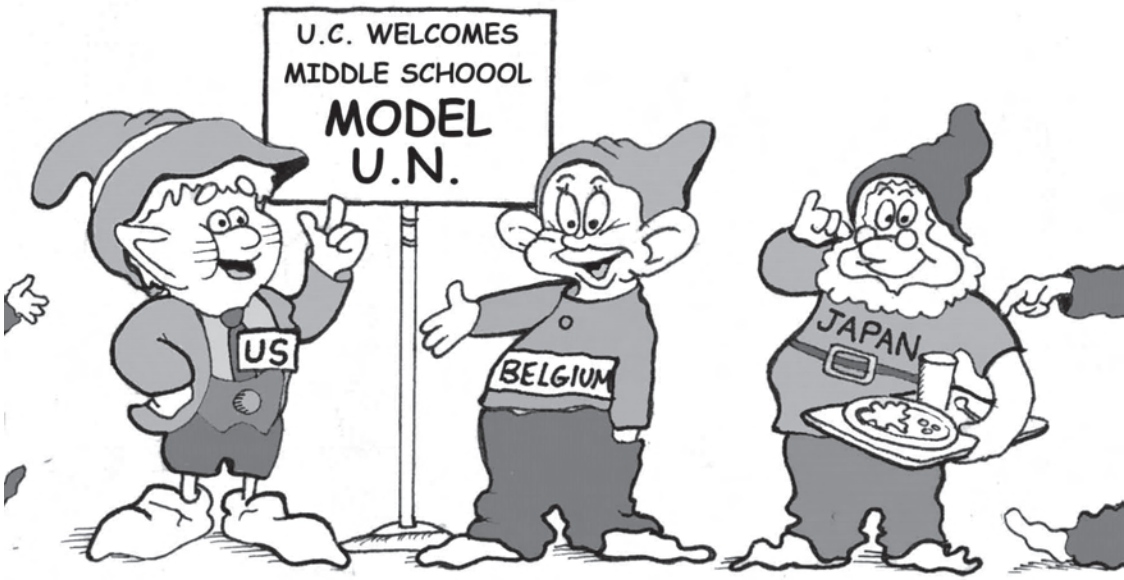
tary action seems more and more imminent.

The chance for U.S. military action in Iran, however, seems much more unlikely than did the prospects for war with Iraq prior to the 2003 invasion. To begin, Tehran has not achieved the level of enrichment necessary for building a bomb. Thus, without proof of actual nuclear weapons, the U.S. could never build support for an invasion or even begin to justify unilateral action (as was done in Iraq). Therefore, domestic and international support remains limited. More importantly, the U.S. military remains tied up in Iraq and Afghanistan; therefore, any attack would have to be limited in nature and most likely carried out by air. But with little international or internal support, the administration may not act alone again.

Some suggest that an attack on Iranian nuclear sites could be initiated by Israel. Israel could unilaterally attack Iran’s nuclear sites in a similar manner to the ’81 Israeli bombings that destroyed the Iraqi nuclear site, Osirak. Unfortunately, this situation remains unlikely because, geographically speaking, an attack of this nature would need U.S. consent. Israeli bombers would need to use Iraqi airspace to enter Iran, implying U.S. consent to the military action. I do not believe Washington is ready to face this scenario, because of our mistakes with Iraq and their subsequent international condemnation, but as diplomacy continues to fail between Iran and the West, there is no telling what could happen.

Teddy Wertheim is a junior at the College.

More importantly, as Saddam once did, the Iranian president believes that U.S. threats of military action are only a bluff.



It’s a small world, after all.

NB

By NATE BURGESS, FLAT HAT GRAPHICS EDITOR

Pop punk changed my life

I never listened to pop punk in high school. As a pseudo-intellectual elitist in my teens, I considered myself too good for songs with names like “I’m not okay (it’s all right)” or “Cute without the E.” But as I enter the twilight of my life — my twenties — I’ve embraced the music I hated then with open arms.

There’s a scene in the film Garden State that always makes me laugh. Zach Braff’s character, an emotional cipher, has just met Natalie Portman’s. “What are you listening to?” Zach Braff asks her. “The Shins,” she replies. Her slender lips pause, and then she says, “Listen to this song; it will change your life.”

Moments in movies that are meant to be taken seriously always make me want to laugh. But this scene in particular cracked me up because of what it asked Zach Braff, and the audience, to do. Take music seriously, Natalie Portman said, and define your life by the melodies that busy your iPod.

The person I was in high school thought that music defined him. In 11th grade, I listened strictly to jazz because I fancied myself a future writer. Joni Mitchell’s album, “Blue,” put a face on my many moments of heartbreak. And River Como’s voice lulled me to sleep on countless angst-filled nights. This was music I could openly tell people I listened to without fear of being ridiculed for my tastes.

No wonder I never touched a pop punk album all those years. What would people have thought of me as a result? I preferred musician name dropping, bringing up obscure music in everyday conversations. I hoped that bringing up artists both hip and trendy would make me more popular. My plans normally backfired. “Hey I just started listening to this band; maybe you’ve heard of them? They’re called The Beatles.”

Evidently, by high school most people had heard of those four guys from Liverpool. The cold stares they gave me made this fact clear. Was it my fault that I was a late musical bloomer? I didn’t know how

to define cool. I still don’t, but I knew that I wasn’t it. Music was my vain attempt to achieve it — to be recognized by the intellectuals at my school who read Kant for fun and talked about Greenwich Village. They did not listen to emotional pop punk.

College was a new chance, a place where I could redefine myself as a person with excellent tastes. I went to listening meetings for the radio station and took to blaring music I’d read about on the internet, hoping my hallmates would hear it and consider me complex.

Then, something happened. For the first weeks of freshman year I didn’t make many friends. By not many friends, I mean hardly any. What was the point of being trendy if I didn’t have anyone to appreciate my scene tastes? “College is going fine,” I’d say to my parents on a Friday night. “I mean I was going to go out tonight, but I decided I’d stay in, you know? Catch up on some sleep.” My father, a healthy drinker, would reprimand me saying, “Why don’t you go out tonight? Maybe drink a little bit?”

I didn’t have the courage to tell him that drinking usually requires friends, else the practice teeters on alcoholism. Instead of going out those first weeks I started listening to music for the first time. Whereas before I played music because I thought it reflected my persona, I now

played music that I actually wanted to hear regardless of what others thought. Instead of putting on airs, I began taking them off. Coincidentally, I started making friends.

As much as I hate to admit it, I had my own Garden State moment last summer. I was driving up to Connecticut with my friend Virginia to visit our mutual friend Liz. Virginia made me a mix CD for the ride. She’d included songs for no reason other than that she liked them. When a pop punk tune came up, I was shocked. True, the lyrics were garbage, but there was something to it. It’s a genre of music that requires little thought, but man is it catchy.

“What are we listening to?” I asked her. “The Get Up Kids,” Virginia said. “Have you heard of them?” I hadn’t, but wished I had. As we continued driving, I desperately wanted to tell Virginia something, but I didn’t want to sound trite. Pop punk had changed my life.

James Damon, a sophomore at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His columns appear every Tuesday.

Colonial Half isn’t half bad

Half-marathons attract amateurs and veterans alike, both for the same reason: the distance. To the seasoned marathoner, the race is a checkpoint of their training, giving them an honest assessment about where



Sherif Abdelkarim

they stand and how hard they should push when it really matters. Half-marathons are a great speed workout for marathoners, adding speed to their established endurance. For the beginner, the intimidating distance serves as a barrier to overcome, demanding mental and physical endurance.

There are many benefits to running half-marathons. First, for a humble fee of about \$50, you get a free shirt. The distance is just long enough to fix the runner’s inner-monkey (here I’m talking about the “runner’s high,” a high so potent it stands second only to heroin), leaving one feeling unnecessarily friendly, shamelessly unabashed and, despite potential tearing and lactic-acidification of muscle, without pain.

Unlike the full marathon, you won’t be in a sea of soreness the next morning — if you’re used to the mileage, you’ll probably be able to run the next day. This year’s weather at the Colonial Half was miserable, to say the least. The clouds held up until about five minutes before the race, at which point it drizzled all over us. Throughout the race this drizzle developed into various gradations, ranging from tiny pellets to plump droplets. In some instances it rained like a bastard, attenuating eventually into a light downpour. On the bright side, the weather wasn’t too cold, and unlike last year, the wind was not an

active participant in the race (although it did pick up during the latter half). The truth is, if you’re crazy enough to run such distances, bad weather won’t stop you.

About 1,500 runners participated in this year’s event, including students, locals, non-locals and a couple of Kenyans who stole the show. I ran with Team Blitz, a training and racing club made up of ex-Tribe runners and competitive running junkies. As always, they brought their A-game, with senior Tommy Antennuci leading the pack at 1:10, placing ninth overall, followed closely by seniors George Ingham, Ben Beiter, and the rest of the team, all finishing at or under 1:20.

Although students and locals had the home-court advantage, the course ruled out any sort of favoritism. The route was designed by the most sadistic of geographers, choosing the absolute worst terrain the

College has to offer.

Most of the race was run on South England Street and Country Road, which looped, covering Newport, Griffin and cutting through Jamestown into Landrum. The 13 wet miles

ended with a final uphill stretch over Yates Drive, with a twisting descent curtailed by yet another twist, this time an ascending slope into the back entrance of William and Mary Hall, where runners were cheered on by friends and family alike. To the runner’s delight, there was hot coco to warm up, with free bananas, bagels and beer.

With marathon season just underway, the Colonial Half served as an appropriate checkpoint. My plan is to run Virginia Beach’s Shamrock Marathon in March, the Charlottesville Marathon in late April and, depending on finals, the Potomac River Run Marathon in early May.

Sherif Abdelkarim, a sophomore at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His columns appear every Tuesday.

The route was designed by the most sadistic of geographers, choosing the absolute worst terrain the College has to offer.

‘Ramayana’ evokes spirit of community

By Chase Johnson
Flat Hat Variety Editor

Beginning Thursday, the College’s theatre department will present “Ramayana La’ar,” Francis Tanglao-Aguas’s original rendition of the Ramayana, the sacred epic of the Hindu faith.

Tanglao-Aguas, assistant professor of world and multicultural theatre at the College, developed the performance from his work studying the original 50,000-verse, 543-chapter epic. He said that while the text is sacred, his show would not be strictly religious. “It’s not a religious ceremony,” he said. “It’s sacred because it is a performance for a purpose — the search for peace and harmony.”

The performance is a story of self-sacrifice and community, according to Tanglao-Aguas.

“Ramayana is about securing community,” he said. “It’s about altruism — selfless giving, giving without explanation, giving without

purpose. It is a word we don’t use much anymore, unfortunately.”

The performance stars junior Adam Schartup as Prince Rama, the rightful heir to the throne of Kosala and the human incarnation of the god Vishnu. Rama is voluntarily exiled for 14 years after a family power struggle. The story is based on Rama’s determination to save his wife, Princess Sita (played by junior Rashmi Joshi), by battling monsters and demons.

Given the complicated nature of the Ramayana, Tanglao-Aguas stressed how impressed he was that his group of students is putting the performance together in just five weeks. “These students are really out of their comfort zones,” he said. “Many of them are doing things they’ve never even seen before. Probably about 75 percent of the students are learning the gamelan. It’s all organic sound — there’s no canned music, no sound effects not created specifically for this performance.”

Not only are the performers attempting something very different, but they are doing it with many people. There are approximately 50 performers who will appear on stage in the show. “These students range from business majors to pre-meds,” Tanglao-Aguas said. “They represent the crème de la crème of William and Mary.”

Yet another challenging aspect of the show’s cast is its relative inexperience. Tanglao-Aguas said that nearly 70 percent of the cast were newcomers to theater. But each person has a role.

“Each person has a specific purpose,” Tanglao-Aguas said. “We don’t have any human trees.”

The size of the cast is meant to evoke the spirit of community. “From my perspective as an actor in the show, there is a sense of community that we want to show to the audience and share with the audience,” sophomore cast member Jack Stuart said. “We want people to feel the story, to think about the story



Alex Haglund • The Flat Hat
Junior Adam Schartup [Top] plays Prince Rama in Professor Francis Tanglao-Aguas’s “Ramayana La’ar.”

because it deals with issues that face us all.”

Tanglao-Aguas credited freshman Sravya Yeleswarapu and senior Tara Pascual for helping to choreograph the complicated show. He also listed

senior Andrew Shoffner for his musical direction, including helping to teach the gamelan.

Despite the difficult task, Tanglao-Aguas is optimistic about the performance. “I have confidence,” he said.

“We all do,” Stuart added.

“Ramayana La’ar” runs Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$8, or \$5 with a student ID.

Largest Greek philanthropy branches out

By Megan Doyle
Flat Hat Assoc. Variety Editor

Starting 9 a.m. this Saturday, tee times will stand as invitation for intriguingly dressed teams of tennis ball golfers to spread



Courtesy Photo • Kappa Delta
Teams with early tee times played through a snow storm during last year’s Campus Golf.

out about campus, equipped with clubs and costumes. Returning for its 12th year, Kappa Delta’s Campus Golf will be even bigger than in years past.

Following tradition, a KD sister will caddy teams of four or more students, leading them through a nine-hole course. This year, a fourth course will be added to the route near Chandler and Landrum Halls. Registered teams will be assigned tee times running from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and are encouraged to wear costumes, as prizes will be offered for both participation and dress. Last year’s golfers displayed an array of themes, from “The Wizard of Oz” to cowboys and Indians.

Prospective golfers can register in the University Center during lunch and dinner time until tomorrow. For the \$10 registration fee, each participant will also receive a T-shirt.

As KD Campus Golf Chair and sophomore Laura Sauvain said, even those not among the over 300 teams that participate will undoubtedly feel the game’s presence this Saturday. “It’s open to all of campus — you can’t miss it. Music blares the whole day, and tennis balls fly over your head as you walk to lunch,” Sauvain said.

By making their way through the course, participants will contribute to two charities:

one national and one local. Prevent Child Abuse America, KD’s national charity, works to raise awareness for the prevention of abuse and neglect of America’s children through local initiatives as well as promoting and strengthening family and community values. Locally, Campus Golf’s profits benefit Williamsburg’s Avalon, a center for abused women and children. The charity’s goal is to intervene and reduce domestic violence and sexual assault by offering shelter and support to victims.

Last year, despite snow and cold, over 1,000 participated, including College President Gene Nichol and Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler. Overall, KD raised over \$12,500, 20 percent of which went to Prevent Child Abuse. The remaining funds go to Avalon.

Campus Golf began as a “shamrock event,” a required annual philanthropy, but has blossomed into the largest Greek philanthropy on campus. “Campus Golf is one of the most popular philanthropies on campus. It is extremely well known by all of campus,” Sauvain said.

With an additional course, KD hopes to cover more ground on campus, accommodate more golfers, and raise more funds for both local and national charities.

CONFUSION CORNER College philanthropy: more than just T-shirts and writing checks

March is just a few days away, meaning the philanthropy season will soon be brought to campus, ushered in by the biggest event



Charlotte Savino

of them all, Campus Golf. With this first bloom of spring, the campus community braces itself for the grueling task of attending midnight pancakes, denim sales at the Hospitality House, crepes in the French house, poker in the Campus Center, pasta dinner in sorority court, coffee in Lodge 1, eye-opening movie screenings galore and croquet, homerun derby and relays, all in the Sunken Garden.

Try walking into the scheduling office this time of year. You’ll find that the campus is booked solid with fundraisers and performances of all sizes and causes.

Indeed, our campus always has some philanthropic activity to participate in, but these next two months prove will prove to be a veritable cornucopia of drunken (and charitable) delight.

Each event appeals to a different vice or persona imbued by a population on campus. The Delta Gamma Charity Denim Sale on Friday has a certain draw to the female designer jeans crowd that may not be the same as the stumbling early-morning golfers that appear bundled in parkas and costumes the following day. I, a woman of many faces, will be at both, though with the chancy forecast for Saturday, I will likely not be wearing my newly acquired denim.

As the weather warms and the rain, rain goes away, outdoor events bring a lazier kind of athlete out to the field — one, perhaps, looking for a tan in the company of his equally generous teammates. There are many such philanthropic sporting events from half-marathons (for runners of all levels) to Nerf football, Moonball, and AXOlympics, all of which work up an appetite for the food-oriented fundraisers.

VOX knows what’s up. The group’s Midnight Bake Sale merges all of the elements of a good philanthropy — drunk people,

good food and a worthy cause. The Facebook group promoting the event illuminated these values. “I’m going to drag my drunk self to purchase a baked good from VOX.” Well said.

While Facebook has certainly helped to let the campus know about upcoming events, sometimes less is more. I get a little overwhelmed with the event invitations for which I neither understand the titles nor read the details. I thought that the Bedfellows’ show was actually a silver dollar pancake charity event, though I’m not sure that I would have been disappointed to see the show by accident.

Then there’s the swag people get for their participation. A word of advice to those still in the planning stages of their philanthropy — our drawers are full of T-shirts. Our drawers are full of adult men’s T-shirts. Not that I don’t wear them anyway. When picking out a workout outfit, I am often conflicted — whom do I rep today? As someone in a sorority, I feel (unjustly, I’m sure) torn about wearing a shirt to promote a competing philanthropy. Am I doing a disservice to my own upcoming event by wearing a T-shirt supporting another cause? Do I misrepresent myself as a member of a different organization by wearing its T-shirt? In this way, college philanthropy sometimes loses its true significance.

Everyone with the means should support each philanthropy, either by attendance, spreading the word, donating straight to the supported organization (Avalon, Prevent Child Abuse America, Operation Smile, American Cancer Society, St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, etc.) or perhaps just making an effort to learn about the cause. While the many organizations on campus are competing for students’ funds, time and energy, we should strive to create the most supportive and generous community we can.

So, enjoy the coming weeks, play outdoors, eat great food, buy great products and do it with lots of friends, a warm heart and an open wallet. It’s a lot more fun than just mailing a check.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. Her gym ensembles do not necessarily reflect the philanthropic preferences of The Flat Hat.

Clean & Clear searches for promotional talent

By Charlotte Sabalis
The Flat Hat

This Thursday, the Starbucks Cafe at the College’s Barnes & Noble bookstore will be transformed into a Clean & Clear Morning Burst Cafe for a one-day promotional event. Clean & Clear, a line of dermatology products owned by Johnson & Johnson, is celebrating the launch of its new take on the popular Morning Burst Line and, to promote it, representatives are visiting 12 colleges across the nation to collect interesting morning-routine stories from college students.

“The product was developed with consumer insight ... college students love the Morning Burst line, because it helps them wake up and feel more energized,” said Jean Rauch, the Senior Consumer Promotion Manager for Clean & Clear. “The new line features new fragrance upgrades and more

natural ingredients.”

As part of their promotion campaign, Clean & Clear is giving away free coffee and samples of its products, as well as asking college students to share interesting morning stories. The videos will then be posted on MyMorningRoutine.com. After collecting videos from all 12 schools, a \$150 cash prize will be given to the student whose video has been viewed the most times at each school. These 12 winners will then go on to compete against each other for a \$1,000 cash prize. As an additional bonus, the best videos will be edited and put together into an advertising campaign for the new Clean & Clear line.

“[We chose the College] because it has a great location, it’s a great size and the caliber of the students is solid,” Rauch said. “We’ve had terrific success so far; students are really embracing the product, and saying

that it helps them wake up.”

Senior Kellyn Johnson, a campus representative for Clean & Clear, said that the experience should be a good one for students at the College. “This is an amazing opportunity for William and Mary students. No one ever comes to our campus. We exist on the fringes of university life, so it’s a cool opportunity for William and Mary students to be included, even with us being such a small university.”

Senior Priyanka Raj Tandon, also a campus representative, agreed. “I think it’s an excellent opportunity for students to sample the product without having to spend money.”



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Hard

Source: krazydad.com

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Easy

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Hard



SARAH GRAYCE • THE FLAT HAT
Men's tennis is currently ranked 75th in the nation, and is 7-6 overall.

MEN'S TENNIS: TRIBE 2, BOISE STATE 5

No. 19 Broncos serve up defeat

Zuck, Juneau win singles matches

BY HEATHER IRELAND
THE FLAT HAT

The men’s tennis team faced off against no. 19 Boise State University Sunday in Williamsburg. Currently ranked no. 75 in the nation, the Tribe put up a good fight but lost 2-5 to the visiting Broncos.

Junior Alex Cojanu and freshman Keziel Juneau were the only Tribe doubles team to win their set, coming out on top with an 8-2 final score. Boise State won the other doubles set, giving them the 1-0 cushion in the match. Tribe freshman Richard Wardell was the first to lose his sets in singles play, 4-6, 1-6. Sophomore Alex Zuck followed up defeating his Boise State opponent with a decisive 6-2, 6-1 score. Another

victory went to Boise State over sophomore Marwan Ramadan, but Juneau followed up with a three-set match ending in a 7-6, 2-6, 6-1 defeat of his opponent. Both Cojanu and senior Colin O’Brien lost both of their singles matches, giving Boise State the overall win.

Two matches were scheduled for Sunday, but the second, against CAA foe George Mason University, was postponed. The nationally-ranked Tribe team, with O’Brien ranked no. 75 in singles and O’Brien and Cojanu ranked no. 34 in doubles play, will return to action against the University of Maryland this Saturday to take on the Terrapins.

Dodgeball tourney puts names on line

DODGEBALL *from page 8*

he is comfortable with page design — a veteran of many fearsome dodgeball engagements, Josh leaves dozens of mourning spouses and crying children in his wake every time he picks up a ball. Rounding out our crew, we had Jeff Dooley, Austin Wright, Brian Mahoney, Omar Hamdy (whose association with The Flat Hat is unsubstantiated at best) and myself.

Of course, the importance of winning in a contest such as this is minimal. I hold Ol’ Teddy’s actual sentiment — that continuing effort in the face of adversity marks a victor no matter the actual

outcome — extremely close to my heart. Sports aren’t about winning or losing. Really, the concept of athletics is all about the transcendent feelings of fellowship and well-being that one can’t help but feel when competing, which leads me to my final point ...

We lost. In the very first round of the tournament. Even our intrepid fireball-hucking leader couldn’t save us from that hardy, daunting freshman hall. And that’s all I want to say about that — I’ve got to go shower.

Brad Clark is a columnist for The Flat Hat.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

LACROSSE



No. 2 Duke University knocked off the Tribe 15-3 in Durham, N.C., Sunday at the Koskinen Stadium. The College had to contend not only with the highly-ranked Blue Devils, but also with the weather, as rain poured down throughout the match. Duke jumped out to an early lead, tallying five goals within the first 10 minutes of the game. The Tribe had several chances to score but could not get past the fearsome Blue Devil defense. Junior midfielder Jaime Sellers, senior midfielder Kara Parker and senior midfielder Emily Vitrano each scored for the Tribe.

By Kate Tedesco. Photo courtesy of www.TribeAthletics.com.

THIS WEEK IN TRIBE SPORTS

FEB 28 TO MAR 2

Lacrosse		
Longwood University	Thu 3/1	4 p.m.
Women's Basketball		
Virginia Commonwealth	Thu 3/1	7 p.m.
Men's Basketball		
Georgia State University *	Fri 3/2	12 p.m.
Baseball		
George Mason University	Fri 3/2	2:30 p.m.
Women's Gymnastics		
Towson University	Fri 3/2	7 p.m.
Women's Tennis		
Harvard University	Fri 3/2	4 p.m.

* CAA Tournament game; played in Richmond, Va.
Bold denotes home game.

2007 CAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

CAA Tournament Preview

2007 CAA Men's Basketball Championship Bracket



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
Sophomore Alex Smith attempts a free throw.

A closer look at the conference's 12 teams as they head into this weekend's CAA tournament

BY ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The 2006-2007 CAA regular season saw the formation of three tiers within the conference: four at the top, four in the middle and four at the bottom. However, the stratification of the league does not clear a path for the top teams. Middle and bottom tier teams alike harbor dreams of dashing the NCAA tournament hopes of the league’s top members. With an automatic bid to the Big Dance awaiting the tournament champion, the 22nd CAA Tournament promises to be one of the most entertaining.

The Top Four

The conference’s four top teams — Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, Hofstra University and Drexel University — distanced themselves from the rest of the league early on, proving their mettle with strong performances against non-conference opponents. Each of these four teams entertained at-large bid hopes during the season; however, it now appears that ODU and Drexel have the inside track over VCU and Hofstra due to their non-conference strengths of schedule.

1. Virginia Commonwealth University (24-6 overall, 16-2 CAA)

A statistical juggernaut offensively — they lead the conference in scoring offense, scoring margin and field goal percentage — the Rams also force a league-high 16.2 turnovers a game. With three players averaging double figures in points, VCU’s deep backcourt, spearheaded by seniors B.A. Walker and Jesse Pellot-Rosa and sophomore Eric Maynor, provides much of the offense. The Rams’ full-court pressure defense also makes them a dangerous team, especially when playing in front of a home crowd in Richmond.

2. Old Dominion University (23-7, 15-3)

The conference’s hottest team rides an 11-game winning streak into the tournament. A starting lineup filled with upperclassmen gives the Monarchs valuable tournament experience; moreover, the starters blend well together and provide a bevy of offensive options, both on the perimeter and in the paint.

3. Hofstra University (22-8, 14-4)

Similar to VCU’s guard-oriented scheme, Hofstra relies heavily on its backcourt for its offensive production. Senior Loren Stokes and junior Antoine Agudio rank second and third respectively in the CAA for scoring average at 20.8 and 20.5 a piece.

4. Drexel University (22-7, 13-5)

The most offensively challenged of the top

teams, Drexel uses its defense to stay in games. The Dragons lead the league in field goal percentage defense, steals and blocks. They do have offensive weapons in junior center Frank Elegar who averages 15.5 points per game, and senior guard Dominick Mejia, who contributes 11.9 points a contest.

The Middle Four

The CAA’s middle four teams share very similar characteristics. Each experienced its share of stirring victories and disappointing losses en route to their middle-of-the-road finishes. These four teams, however, have the potential to upset any of the top four teams and make a run to the semifinals or beyond.

5. Northeastern University (12-18, 9-9)

After starting CAA play 0-3, the Huskies turned things around just in time, winning four of their last five to capture the fifth seed. The emergence of freshman Matt Janning helped Northeastern climb in the standings. However, the Huskies rank 11th in both scoring offense and rebounding margin (they were out-rebounded in seven of their nine losses), both of which are concerns heading into the weekend.

6. George Mason University (15-14, 9-9)

Last year’s media darling and NCAA Final Four participant is a different team this year. Junior returnees Will Thomas and Folarin Campbell provide the Patriots with a solid one-two punch; nevertheless, George Mason’s offense has struggled while their defense, which leads the league in scoring defense, has kept them in games.

7. Towson University (14-16, 8-10)

Senior Gary Neal leads the league, averaging 25.6 points a game, but the Tigers only have one other significant scoring option in senior Dennard Abraham. However, Neal is more than capable of leading the Tigers to an upset or two.

8. William and Mary (15-14, 8-10)

Although the Tribe has dropped three straight games, they have proven they can play with the CAA’s top teams, as evidenced by wins over Drexel and George Mason and close losses to Old Dominion and Hofstra.

“I think the tournament is wide open,” Head Coach Tony Shaver said following the Tribe’s 57-62 loss to ODU. “I think we’ll walk into Richmond with a lot of confidence.”

The CAA Tournament has traditionally been unkind to the Tribe, as the College has compiled a 3-21 record over the tournament’s 21-year history. However, the 2006-2007 edition of Tribe basketball has shown signs that a one-and-

done trip in this year’s tournament is unlikely. The College captured eight regular season CAA victories and is in position to finish above .500 for the first time since the 1997-1998 campaign.

Senior Adam Payton has had a strong season, leading the team in points, rebounds, steals and free throw percentage. His aggressive penetration sparks the Tribe’s offense and his junior teammates, forward Laimis Kisielius and guard Nathan Mann, have followed his lead offensively.

For the College to be successful in the CAA tournament, they must rely on what has brought them to this point: strong defense and solid execution. When the Tribe plays high-intensity defense, it usually carries over to the offensive end. However, the College has had its share of cold shooting stretches, which limits their ability to stay within reach of its opponents, making rebounding and free throw shooting critical.

The Bottom Four

The bottom four have pulled off a few shockers throughout the season — namely JMU’s surprising 72-65 win over visiting ODU. Turnovers and weak defense have kept these teams from winning and will most likely prevent them from any tournament victories.

9. Georgia State University (10-19, 5-13)

The Panthers gave VCU all it could handle this past Saturday, but they came up short as the experienced Rams overtook them in the game’s latter stages. Georgia State committed 17 turnovers, a reflection of their league-leading 15.8 turnovers a game.

10. University of North Carolina–Wilmington (7-21, 4-14)

Last year’s conference champions struggled this year under first-year Head Coach Benny Moss. The Seahawks have capable post players, with juniors Vladimir Kuljanin and Todd Hendley looming in the paint, but losing five of six to end the season is no way to enter the tournament.

11. James Madison University (7-22, 4-14)

Since the victory over ODU, the Dukes have gone 2-10 and, like their bottom-dwelling brethren, enter the tournament heading in the wrong direction.

12. University of Delaware (5-25, 3-15)

Losers of six straight, Delaware figures to be one of the first teams out of Richmond; however, the Blue Hens did upset Hofstra 72-68 and defeat the College 77-62. That said, a low-scoring Delaware team will be hard pressed for a tournament victory.

Baseball sweeps UMBC in 3-game series

BASEBALL *from page 8*

the three-game series sweep, the first under Coach Leoni.

In game one of the day, the Tribe controlled the contest, not allowing UMBC to reach the board until the top of the seventh. Sheridan led the Tribe with three hits, and Park, Julianio and sophomore leftfielder Robbie Nickle each pounded out two. The Tribe scored big in the earlier innings, as McWhorter, Maliniak,

Sexton, Guez and Nickle scored one and both Park and Julianio scored two. Tribe freshman starting pitcher Kevin Landry (1-1) walked away with his first win, totaling eight strikeouts and not allowing any runs. Junior Jimmy Drury and freshman John Lawlor provided relief.

The second game of the day, designated a seven-inning contest, turned out to be an intense game between the Tribe and the Retrievers, as the two

teams traded the lead back and forth. The Tribe first made the board in the bottom of the fourth, after Sexton tripled and Sheridan singled up the middle to send Sexton home. UMBC scored three in the top of the fifth to take the lead, but the Tribe tied it after scoring two more. After scoring another in the sixth, UMBC led 4-3, but the College ended with the 5-4 victory, as the team totaled two in the bottom of the seventh to put themselves over the top.

McWhorter, Maliniak, Sexton, Sheridan, Stanfield and Wera all recorded hits. Junior pitcher Pat Kantakevich started for the Tribe and relief pitcher Pete Vernon (1-0) earned the win.

“Our pitching as a whole the entire weekend was outstanding. We got three quality starts from Sean Grieve, Kevin Landry and Pat Kantakevich, and our bullpen did a great job as well,” Coach Leoni said. “This is what we’ve been waiting for.”

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

IM Dodgeball
tourney puts
names on line

Every so often it becomes necessary for a man to take stock of his life. In order to avoid the trap of placidity, one must constantly be thinking, “What can I do to be a man of the highest order; a man of civility, honor, and personal strength; a boon to his family, whose name will echo throughout the halls of history for the rest of eternity; a man whom men wish to be, women swoon over and that remembers to shower at least once every three days?”

Last weekend I reached just such a moral turning point. The decision: either to continue writing my column from the safe confines of my abode, or to put my money where my mouth is and take a step in the direction of athletic contest. I, being a journalist of the highest order, haven’t had the need to venture into “the field” for quite some time. In fact, my columnist friends and I often gather together in our smoking jackets, drinking bourbon and making snide remarks about the “staff writers” who actually have to deal with “the public.”

So it was with great trepidation, fearful of losing the perfect couch butt groove I had developed through grueling sessions of sitting and a fatal fear of change, that I decided to leave my apartment and face the unknown cruelties of competition. After all, Teddy Roosevelt once proclaimed, “It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. Unless, you know, the strong man really sucks it up. Like big time.”

Not quite as heartened as I might have been had I remembered more than the first half of the Roosevelt quote, I set out for the fabled competition — the intramural dodgeball tournament. Ever since I came to the fortress of knowledge that we call home, I had learned to revere the annual dodgeball tourney. As a freshman I would sit quietly, listening to the upperclassmen relate in hushed tones the public triumphs and humiliations of those few brave souls who dared place their reputations on the line. Hence, with a vain thirst for glory, despite the social pratfalls involved should we lose, The Flat Hat put together the single greatest dodgeball team ever ... to be put together by The Flat Hat.

Josh Pinkerton, better known as The Flat Hat’s editor-in-chief, served as the ringleader of our motley group. He quickly proved himself to be as adept at hurling a ball screaming across the court as



Brad Clark

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See DODGEBALL page 7

MEN’S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 57, OLD DOMINION 62

The road to Richmond



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
Senior guard Adam Payton dishes the ball off during the Tribe’s 60-47 victory over Drexel University Feb. 14. The Tribe is now 15-14 overall and 8-10 in the CAA.

Tribe loses heartbreaker to ODU; team now prepares for Georgia State in CAA tournament Friday

By ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

In an intense match-up Saturday, the Tribe fell 57-62 to the Old Dominion University Monarchs (23-7, 15-3 CAA), who brought their winning streak to 11 games. The loss leaves the College at 15-14 overall and 8-10 in the CAA heading into the CAA tournament, where the Tribe will be the eighth seed. ODU’s victory secured the second seed and a first-round bye.

“It was a very physical game,” Head Coach Tony Shaver said. “I think they are the most physical team in the league. I thought we went toe-to-toe with them.”

The physical play in the paint made it tough for either team to score inside the three-point line. The two teams

combined for just 14 two-point field goals, but both erupted from long range with ODU making 12 three-pointers and the Tribe making 11. The even shooting performances from each team kept the game close.

Five lead changes and five ties resulted in neither team distancing itself from the opposition. The largest lead of the game came with two minutes, 18 seconds remaining in the first half after a 16-4 Tribe run gave the College a 7-point lead at 33-26.

Down three at halftime, the Monarchs quickly took the lead back at the beginning of the second half. A Drew Williamson three — one of his six in the game — and a three-point play from Brandon Johnson (13 points, seven assists) gave ODU the lead just 34 seconds into the second half. Williamson’s four second-

half three-pointers brought the senior to a career-high 20 points and kept the Monarchs in the game.

“He’s clearly one of the best guards in the league,” Shaver said of Williamson’s performance.

ODU led for much of the second half until a three-pointer from freshman David Schneider gave the Tribe the lead at 51-50 with 5:11 left. Williamson answered with a three of his own at the 3:40 mark to give the Monarchs a 53-51 advantage. Two free throws from sophomore Alex Smith, who came off the bench to grab seven rebounds and score four points, tied the game at 53-53, but ODU reeled off five straight points with a three-pointer from Johnson and a layup from Valdas Vasylius. Trailing by five with 1:56 remaining, the College climbed to within two with a

three-pointer from junior Nathan Mann (11 points), but the Tribe would get no closer. Vasylius hit two free throws and at the other end, senior Adam Payton made one of two at the line, leaving the College down three with 45 seconds left. The Tribe defense forced a missed three-pointer from Vasylius, but ODU’s Brian Henderson grabbed the rebound and hit two free throws to secure the victory.

The eighth-seeded Tribe travels to Richmond Friday to face the ninth-seeded Georgia State University Panthers in the first round of the CAA tournament. The Tribe defeated the Panthers twice this season, winning 57-43 on the road and 81-65 at home. Tip-off is scheduled for 12 p.m. at the Richmond Coliseum.

Inside:
CAA tournament preview and bracket, p. 7



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT
Junior forward Devin James and the Tribe take on VCU Thursday.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 65, GEORGE MASON 56

Women come back to beat Patriots

Win brings College to 17-11 overall, marking the second-best season in its Division I history

By JESSICA HECHT
THE FLAT HAT

The women’s basketball team came from behind in the second half against George Mason University Sunday afternoon to secure its 17th win of the season in a 65-56 victory. With an overall record of 17-11 (9-8 CAA), this marks the team’s second-best season in its Division I history. Additionally, this was the Tribe’s first victory over the Patriots on the road in Head Coach Debbie Taylor’s tenure at the College.

Junior forward Kyra Kaylor led the Tribe with 26 points and seven rebounds, hitting 15 of her 16 free

throws down the stretch. Senior guard Sarah Stroh also added 12 points. The Tribe out-shot George Mason 37 percent to 33 percent from the floor and held a slight 41-39 rebounding advantage.

The first half started out slowly as the Patriots only led the Tribe 4-2 at the first timeout. With eight minutes and 27 seconds on the clock, the College held a slight 17-13 advantage after an eight-point run. There was back and forth scoring for the remainder of the half as the lead changed hands several times. At halftime, George Mason possessed a 25-23 advantage.

The Tribe implemented a half-

court trap and match-up zone defense in the second half to limit Patriot shooting. Freshman Tiffany Benson came up big for the College in the second half, scoring six consecutive points down the stretch. With seven minutes and 40 seconds left on the clock, the score was tied at 44-44. It was then that the Tribe held the Patriots scoreless for five minutes and went on a 10-0 run.

Although George Mason fought back, the Tribe played exceptionally well defensively and secured a nine-point victory. With the win, the College is now tied for fifth place in the conference with Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Tribe will host its regular season finale Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaplan Arena against VCU. The game is pivotal for seeding in the upcoming CAA tournament.

In their last match-up against VCU, the Tribe fell to the Rams 54-68 in Richmond. The College will have to play solid defense and get the job done on the boards to defeat the Rams.

“We had a poor showing during the first half the last time we played VCU,” Taylor said. “As long as we can handle the pressure, and take the ball to the hoop, it will be a good game. There is a lot at stake and we just need to play well.”

BASEBALL: TRIBE 5, UMBC 4

Pitching lifts Tribe past UMBC

College sweeps series with victories of 8-2, 9-1 and 5-4; Tribe to face Longwood today

By MADELINE WOLFERT
THE FLAT HAT

This past weekend, the Tribe faced off against the University of Maryland-Baltimore County Retrievers at Plumeri Park. After dominating in Friday’s game 8-2, the Tribe won both games Saturday (9-1, 5-4) to sweep the three-game series.

“It feels really good, finally putting together a three-game winning streak. It’s certainly something that’s a great positive for us,” Head Coach Frank Leoni said. “But we also realize that we’re not going to get ahead of ourselves, that we still

have a lot of work to do to accomplish our long term goals for the season.”

The College opened the series with a decisive 8-2 victory over UMBC, recording 14 hits to UMBC’s four. Junior designated hitter Tim Park, sophomore rightfielder Ben Guez and junior center fielder Paul Juliano each totaled two RBI and junior leftfielder Greg Maliniak and sophomore shortstop Lanny Stanfield each recorded one. Senior second baseman Brent McWhorter led the offense with three hits and two runs, while sophomore catcher Jeff Wera and Guez both had two runs, and sophomore first baseman Mike Sheridan had one.

The Tribe began the game with a bang in the first, as Guez singled to send Park and McWhorter to home plate. Junior pitcher Sean Grieve (2-1) took the win, totaling six strikeouts and allowing only two hits in five innings. Freshman Max Axelrod, senior Warriik Staines and junior Pete Vernon offered relief to shut out UMBC through the remainder of the game.

The two teams faced off again in a doubleheader Saturday, as Sunday’s game was rescheduled due to expected bad weather. The Tribe took both games, the first 9-1 and the second 5-4, grabbing

See BASEBALL page 7



SARAH GRAYCE • THE FLAT HAT
Senior Greg Sexton swings at a pitch against UMBC. Sexton is batting .457 this season.